

LOUDOUN COUNTY EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL, INC.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

DRAFT

MINUTES

Monday, September 15, 2003

The Chairman, Leo C. Kelly, PA called the September meeting of the ALS Committee to order at 1945 hours. The meeting, which was held in Classroom #3 of the Fire-Rescue Training Center, had the following members in attendance:

Co. 3	Alice Love	Co. 14	Jack Merritt
Co. 4	Fred Muller	Co. 15	Excused
Co. 6	Absent	Co. 17	Absent
Co. 8	Nicholas Croce	LCFR	Jay Brown, Linda Hale, Jose Salazar
Co. 9	Kit Fraley	LFAS	James Burke
Co. 10	Absent	LHC	Wendy Harvel
Co. 12	Excused	Chairman	Leo C. Kelly, PA
Co. 13	Marc Sirkus	OMD	Donald A. Sabella, MD

Actions taken during August recess

Chairman Kelly reviewed actions taken on behalf of the ALS Committee during the August recess. At the July 2003 meeting, it was agreed that an Executive Committee consisting of the Chairman, OMD and Staff could take actions on behalf of the ALS Committee.

Kelly asked that the ALS Committee endorse the following actions:

1. The release of John Gentzel, EMT/P from preceptorship was recommended by Rescue Chief 15, his mentor and Fred Gansel after reviewing his documentation of calls. Fred Gansel reported that the review of his calls and the comments from the preceptors were good.

Dr. Sabella concurred with the recommendations to release John Gentzel, EMT/CT-P level.

2. A list of candidates for the EMT/E program was forwarded to ALS Committee members for their review. Several comments came in concerning three of the candidates. The concerns were reviewed, addressed and resolved. The candidates were recommended for the class.

Motion by A Love Seconded by N. Croce

Motion: Approve the actions taken by the interim Executive Committee during the August recess as outlined.

Vote: Approved

Public Comments

None

Minutes

The minutes of the July 2003 meeting were approved with corrections.

Motion by L. Hale Seconded by F. Muller

Motion: Approve July 2003 minutes with corrections

Vote: Approved

Medical Director's Report – Dr. Donald Sabella

Dr. Sabella reported that he has met with John Morgan, MD, an ER Physician from LHC who is interested in becoming involved with the Loudoun County EMS program. Dr. Morgan previously had been a member of a Virginia Rescue Squad. He was unable to attend the meeting this evening since he was on duty at Loudoun Hospital ER. We will begin to get Dr. Morgan involved so that he can become familiar with the Loudoun County system.

Dr Sabella also stated that he had not heard any additional information either by Chief 15 or NOVA Urgent Care following his meeting to discuss the transfer of non-emergent patients for the NOVA Urgent Care facility.

Jim Burke advised that NOVA Urgent Care had contacted Loudoun Fairfax Ambulance to address they transfer of their non-emergent patients. He stated that while they had not signed a contract at this point with Loudoun Fairfax Ambulance, they have called on several occasions for the transfer of non-emergent patients. Burke stated that they had made it very clear to NOVA Urgent Care that they are not replacing Sterling Rescue on Emergency calls and that their role would only be the transfer of non-emergent patients.

Dr. Sabella said that he would like to see some numbers as to the distribution of calls from NOVA Urgent Care as to the number of Emergency versus non-emergent transfers. He asked Chief Hale if she could follow-up with Chief 15 on the current status and report back to him on the information.

Loudoun Hospital Center Report – Wendy Harvel, RN

Chairman Kelly welcomed Wendy Harvel, RN, to the ALS Committee, representing LHC. She will be replacing Beth McKinnon, RN.

Chairman Kelly first addressed several issues having to do with the hospital that have taken place since the last ALS Committee meeting. Chief Hale and Captain Salazar assisted Kelly in presenting the information to the ALS Committee members.

1. Captain Salazar reported that although they were initially reluctant to replace cervical collars at the ER, it now appears that it may be a possibility in the near future. Initially there was a concern that the hospital would not be able to charge the patient for a cervical collar charge that was not done out of medical necessity. It now appears that they may be able to overcome this obstacle. The hospital will be purchasing stiff neck collars in the future.
2. Jack Merritt expressed the concerns of several members, that on occasion, the Cornwall staff is forgetting to place the expiration date on the outside of the pouch when they replace the drugs being used in the drug pouch. This omission results in the ALS Provider having to open the pouch to check the expiration dates.
3. Merritt also reported that different forms of Diltiazem are being provided for replacement. Once again no one was notified of these changes in the way the drug was supplied by the hospital.
4. We are still unsure at this point how many companies have not picked up the second duplicate drug pouch that is to be carried in every medic unit. It appears that several of the companies may have gotten their second pouch from the ER and that resulted in the pharmacy not knowing that they had picked up their second pouch. Each committee member needs to go back to their company to check and make sure that all units have a second duplicate drug pouch.
5. Isuprel is once again available in the Rescue Pyxis however it now requires refrigeration. It can be maintained non-refrigerated state for a period of six months, shorter than the expiration dated noted on the ampule. It will be important for the pharmacy to mark the shortened expiration date on the ampules when they are placed in a non-refrigerated storage container.
6. It has been decided to remove Ativan from the available drugs on the medic units. Ativan requires refrigeration, however it can be stored in a non-refrigerated state. When it is stored in a non-refrigerated state, the expiration is six months from the time that it is removed from refrigeration. This has resulted in a considerable cost to the hospital that has been replacing the drugs with the shortened expiration date of six months. In addition the drug is being used on a very infrequent basis in the field. The drug will be removed from all units effective October 1, 2003. The protocol will be adjusted to reflect the removal and the

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protocol will be changed in compliance with Dr. Sabella's direction and the star requiring Medical Control will be removed from the Valium for seizure patients.

7. The new Rescue Pyxis is now at the Cornwall Street ER. We are waiting for it to be stocked by the pharmacy. Dr. Neufer stated that it would be stocked within the next two weeks.

8. Several of the drugs that we use have been converted to needle less administration sets. ALS Providers need to review the procedures for the set-up and use of the needle less drugs as this transition occurs.

9. We will be converting over totally to the syringe with a special adaptor for use as EDD's. The hospital will replace the bulb device once the supply is exhausted.

10. Wendy reported that EMS providers have been observed taking large quantities of supplies from the Emergency Department that are not being charged to a patient. Some providers have left the hospital with shopping bags full of supplies. Kelly stated that this results in a tremendous financial loss to the hospital and should be stopped. Only those items on an approved list can be replaced by the provider at the hospital; In addition, the name and address of the patient must be supplied so that the appropriate charges can be made and the appropriate bills mailed too the patients. Kelly suggested that the room be kept locked and that an item is replaced only when the appropriate billing information is provided to the hospital.

11. Jack Merritt asked if there was any possibility that the ER would be receptive to replacing the head immobilizers used on calls. Since there were so many concerns about the cervical collar it seems as though the hospital would not entertain the replacement of this item.

12. Dr. Sabella suggested that a dual memo to EMS Providers and a second to Nursing personnel be issued to explain the above concerning the replacement of supplies by EMS personnel.

13. Wendy reported that there remain concerns amongst the ER physicians of patients being sent out by helicopter from the scene prior to their being notified and their concurrence with the decision to fly the patient. It appears that we may have to modify the policy with regards to who may request the dispatch of a helicopter.

14. Jack Merritt also brought up the fact that the trauma centers are not returning the backboards, straps, etc. from fly outs. It appears that they are sending the materials back to LHC. This may require a meeting with the Trauma Center personnel to discuss the mechanism to return the equipment used on the call. Kelly suggested that Companies place their names on a sticker along with their companies address.

Working Groups

ALS Protocols

Captain Salazar reported that work continues on the ALS Protocols CD ROM. The release has been delayed by the continuing changes that have occurred.

Courses

Captain Salazar reported on the outcomes for the following ALS classes completed at the Training Center:

EMT-E to EMT-I Class (Evening Class – 7 Students) – Final Results

All students passed both the practical and written examinations.

EMT-B to EMT-I (Daytime Class - 6 Students) – Final Results

All students passed both the practical and written examinations.

Dr. Sabella congratulated the EMS Training Division on the successful number of students passing the class.

Fall Classes:

EMT-B to EMT-E – (16 Students originally enrolled – now down to 14 Students)

Since the start of the class on August 28, 2003, two students have dropped from the class. One student was from Company 3 and one student was from Company 14.

PALS Class A PALS Class was conducted this past weekend (September 13, 14, 2003 at the Training Center. There were 15 students in the final enrollment (down from the initial 19 registrants) completing the class. Of those participating in the class, 8 students were from the hospital, 5 students were from Fire-Rescue and 2 were from Loudoun-Fairfax Ambulance Service. Dr. Trafante of Loudoun Hospital ER served as the Course Director for the class.

The next two PALS classes will be conducted at the Training Center on October 18, 19, 2003 and November 22, 23, 2003.

EMT-ST to EMT-E Transition Class (Recertification for EMT-ST) – 5 Students

County Test: September 21, 2003

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ALS Challenge opportunity scheduled for this Sunday, September 21, 2003, weather permitting.

ALS Challenge personnel

The following have applied to participate in the ALS Challenge process on September 21, 2003:

1. Jeremy Adcock, EMT-ST to EMT-CT/P
2. Christian Silva, EMT-ST to EMT-CT/P
3. David Dyer, EMT-ST to EMT-CT/P
4. Beau Lodgston, EMT-B to EMT-CT/P

The ALS Committee cannot take formal action to endorse the registrants since the interviews have not been conducted at this point. There was agreement amongst the committee members that unless there are problems during the interview process, the registrants should move forward in the ALS Challenge process.

EMS Training Issues

Captain Salazar reported on the following:

The EMS Training staff is encountering a great deal of difficulty getting instructors for the classes. There appears to be a high rate of burnout amongst the instructors. We are looking for instructors from the ALS Committee and from our ALS field providers. We have identified potential instructors from amongst the field providers and they will be invited to participate and teach in future ALS Classes.

Jamie Cooper of the EMS Training staff is being groomed to take over the ALS Training programs in the future,

If the Sunday's testing session is cancelled due to Hurricane Isabelle, it will present a problem for the EMT-ST to EMT-E transition students since many of their certifications expire at the end of the month. A request for a variance to extend their certification period would subject them to taking the state written examination at another location. At this point it is not expected that any of the current students will have problems with the testing process.

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Kelly suggested that we consider an interim policy to deal with the current situation in face of the potential Hurricane and cancellation of the testing session. If the testing is cancelled due to Hurricane Isabelle and requires the rescheduling of the testing session, that the interim policy would be to submit the paperwork and waivers for the written examination be submitted to the State OEMS Office as if the County testing sessions had been conducted. The Testing Session would then be rescheduled. Failure of the student to appear for the rescheduled

date or failure of either the written or practical session would result in a suspension of the local authorization of the technician until they successfully pass the testing modules. A motion was made to deal with the certifications of the EMT-ST to EMT-E transition students should testing be cancelled due to Hurricane Isabelle.

Motion by J. Merritt Seconded by A. Love

Motion: If the testing is cancelled due to Hurricane Isabelle and requires the rescheduling of the testing session on September 21, 2003, that the interim policy would be to submit the paperwork and waivers for the written examination be submitted to the State OEMS Office as if the County testing sessions had been conducted. The Testing Session would then be rescheduled. Failure of the student to appear for the rescheduled date or failure of either the written or practical session would result in a suspension of the local authorization of the technician until they successfully pass the testing modules

Vote: Approved

ALS Technician Status

Fred Gansel could not be present for the meeting this evening, however he has requested that the ALS Committee and Dr. Sabella consider the release of Frances Rath at the EMT-CT/P level. Fred has received the request from Chief 13 for the release. Fred stated that as the Mentor for Frances Rath, he concurs with the decision to release him. He stated that he has done well throughout his preceptorship and that his preceptors have consistently provided good comments on his skills and leadership capabilities.

A motion was made to release Frances Rath as an EMT-CT/P.

Motion by A. Love Seconded by M. Sirkus

Motion: To recommend to the Medical Director the release of Francis Rath as an EMT-CT/P in Loudoun County.

Vote: Approved

Dr. Sabella concurred with decision to release Francis Rath.

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Company 13 was asked to determine the status of Kathy Polen's preceptorship. She completed the ALS Challenge process for reentry however it does not appear that she is running any calls in the preceptorship. It is important to determine her intentions with regard to her preceptorship status.

In addition, Company 13 will be asked to determine the status of Brian Difenbaugh as an ALS Provider in Loudoun County. Brian remains on the suspension list for ALS skills however it has been reported that he has move out of the area to Southern Virginia. He still continues to maintain an employment connection with Loudoun Fairfax Ambulance service. In addition he still has his Loudoun County ALS keys. Jim Burke said that he would speak with Brian to have him turn his keys into the County.

Old Business

1. A meeting was held at Lovettsville with Frederick County, Maryland personnel however no representatives from the Brunswick Companies attended. The problems that are being encountered with the EMS mutual aid response into Brunswick were outlined and discussed with Assistant Chief Rick Harris of Frederick County Fire-Rescue. Future meetings are planned to include Chip Jewel who is the liaison with the Frederick County Fire-Rescue Association.

2. Allie Love provided an update on the status of the intent of Upperville Fire Department to place an ambulance at their station and the status of their ALS capability.

Love stated that the current plan is that all calls originating in Loudoun County will have a Loudoun County response. She said that at the present time the Mutual Aid agreement is old and needs to be reviewed and revised. She also stated that the ability of Upperville to provide ALS response is not in question.

Several calls into Fauquier County have resulted in an ALS Provider being dispatched from Company 9. One ALS Provider was dispatched from Company 9 with a destination of Route 50 and Route 17. It was felt by the ALS Committee that this is an unacceptable response.

It was the feeling of the ALS Committee that unless an ALS Provider is available in Middleburg for the Mutual Aid Request that no further roll down should occur for the request. On a mutual aid request for ALS, if an ALS Provider is not available in Middleburg, then Fauquier should be advised that ALS is not available for response. Dr. Sabella stated that this would be consistent with the response policy in Lovettsville into Brunswick. If ALS is not available from Company 12, no further roll down occurs to other Loudoun County Companies.

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New Business

1. Kelly advised that he had received an e-mail from Sean Hegamy from Southeastern Emergency Equipment that the ALS Drug bag that we have chosen for use in Loudoun County is no longer available from the manufacturer. This bag was chosen due to its impervious design. The former pervious model remains available.

2. Chief Hale reported that Frankie Sutherland has the N95 masks for distribution along with the hoods for fit testing. Each company was to designate two individuals to do the fit testing.
3. We need to begin to get better feedback on the status of patient's selected for evacuation by helicopters to Trauma Centers. There appears to be more patient's being flown and frequent reports of discharge from the Trauma Center.
4. Chief Hale distributed information on Hurricane Isabelle to the members of the Committee.
5. We continue to look for an acceptable refrigeration system for the drugs in the medic units. Efforts will continue to identify a system that is acceptable and reliable.

There being no further business to discuss a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by A. Love Seconded by N. Croce

Motion: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Approved – Meeting Adjourned at 2215 hours

The next ALS Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 20, 2003, at the Training Center.

For the ALS Committee:

**Leo C. Kelly, PA
Co-Chair – ALS Committee
Loudoun County EMS Council, Inc.**

LCK 9-16-2003